

**GOVERNOR'S ARIZONA READY EDUCATION COUNCIL
MINUTES
General Meeting –December 6, 2011
8:00 A.M.**

Location: 1700 W. Washington
Governor's 2nd Floor Conference Room
Phoenix, AZ

Members Present: Dr. Craig Barrett, Superintendent John Huppenthal, Dr. Tom Anderes, Norm Butler, Don Cardon, Tim Carter, Pearl Esau, Dr. Michael Kearns, Amanda McAdams, Diane McCarthy, Nancy Meech, Colleen Niccum, Merl Waschler, and Dr. Jim Zaharis

Members Absent: Seth Balough, Onnie Shekerjian, and Jaime Molera,

Staff Present: Rebecca Gau, Debra Raeder-Gay, Kerry McConnell, and Karla Phillips

1. Call to Order, Welcome, Introductions, and Objectives

Dr. Craig Barrett called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and welcomed Council members. Dr. Barrett stated that the Governor would be joining the meeting at 8:45 am to deliver a brief message to the Council. Dr. Barrett advised the public that, if they wished to address the Council, a "request to speak" form needed to be submitted to staff in order to be recognized during the Call to the Public portion of the meeting.

Dr. Barrett reviewed the vision, mission and goals of the Council emphasizing that the goals are not too aggressive for Arizona to accomplish. Dr. Barrett stated that he also wanted to see the Council address the high school drop-out problem, and stated that implementation of Arizona's 2010 Academic Standards and the new assessment is critical.

Dr. Barrett noted that he strongly believes that a quality education system is vital for Arizona's economic growth and competitiveness, that there is a great deal of work to do, and that we need to bring to scale the successful work already underway in Arizona. Dr. Barrett stated that the Change the Equation report would be released tomorrow at the National Governor's Association STEM Summit in Durham, North Carolina (staff will be participating in this Summit). This report provides the first-ever analysis of U.S. 8th grade science proficiency standards. The Council needs to review where Arizona ranks and explore strategies to implement the recommendations in this report.

Chair Barrett then asked Council members to briefly introduced themselves.

2. Review and Discussion: Goals & Activities of the Council

- **Review of Executive Order**

Debra Raeder-Gay, Associate Director of the Governor's Office of Education Innovation, provided an overview of the Executive Order including the five key strategies that the Council has initially been charged to address:

- Implementation of the new state standards;
- Training and recruitment of high qualified teachers
- Implementation of internationally benchmarked assessments (PARCC);
- Ensuring a high school diploma represents the ability to enter higher education without remediation, and
- Increasing post secondary graduation rates, particularly in subject areas of highest need for the state.

• **Review of Arizona Ready**

Rebecca Gau, Director of the Governor's Office of Education Innovation, provided the Council with an overview of the Arizona Ready Reform Plan, an update on where we currently are on implementing the Plan, and reviewed the Arizona Ready website. Ms. Gau provided information on the following:

- Why and how the plan was initially developed;
- The statewide support for the plan;
- The four pillars of the plan: data use, standards and assessments, great teachers and great leaders, and supporting struggling schools; and
- The vital support areas of the plan and how they are integrated across the pillars: regional centers, STEM, higher education, data systems and technology, leadership and funding, and public transparency and accountability.

Ms. Gau reviewed the various pages of the Arizona Ready website with the Council stressing that this isn't just a website, but an interactive tool to engage and communicate with parents, students, teachers, and key stakeholders regarding our progress and efforts in implementing our education reform agenda.

3. Remarks from the Governor

Governor Brewer welcomed and thanked the members for their participation on the Council stating that the role they accepted as members of the Council is vitally important and that all members must be actively engaged in the work to reform education in Arizona. The Governor indicated that the creation of a high-quality and stable jobs climate is a top priority and that one of the most relevant factors in creating that climate is a highly educated workforce. The Governor charged the Arizona Ready Education Council with the task of forging ahead with implementing the strategies of the Arizona Education Reform Plan and to help provide oversight and accountability and to ensure we are tracking -- and ultimately achieving -- the results we need. The Governor stressed that the Council must be the driver, watchdogs, advocates and ambassadors for this work.

Dr. Barrett thanked the Governor for her remarks, leadership and commitment to education reform in Arizona.

4. Role of the Arizona Department of Education:

Superintendent Huppenthal provided a brief overview of the role of the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) in leading the education reform agenda in Arizona. The Superintendent provided information on and discussed:

- Relationship of work of ADE with districts/schools/classrooms
- Rand Study and Arizona's ranking in this and other studies
- Distinction between and importance of school performance vs. student performance and how that impacts Arizona's ranking
- Importance of retaining top superintendents and spotlighting highly successful schools and helping to bring their strategies to scale – recommended the Council hear presentations from the Vail and Chandler Schools Districts
- Much more work needed on the data system/infrastructure; have made enormous progress but still much to be done to fully develop a robust and interactive data system that drives reform
- Student attitude and parent perception are important to improving student achievement

5. Review and Discussion: Arizona Ready Report Card

Kerry McConnell, Project Manager for the Governor's Office of Education Innovation, provided a brief overview and look at Arizona Ready Report Card website. She described in detail the current template for main landing page and subpages for 6 main measurement areas from the Arizona Ready goals. Ms. McConnell solicited feedback on the template from Council members.

6. Next Steps

Council members briefly engaged in a discussion on topics for the next few meeting agendas, including:

- Update – Arizona Ready Report Card
- Update - Implementing Arizona Standards
- Update - PARCC
- Update - dropout rates/prevention (what works, what doesn't); look at the data
- Study/Presentations from exceptional schools/districts
- Study: Changing classroom delivery models
- Update- Role of CTE
- Update – Change the Equation Report

7. Call to the Public

Chair Barrett made a call to the public. The following citizens addressed the Council:

- Susan Carlson, Arizona Business & Education Coalition, discussed the Arizona Higher Performing Schools Recognition Program
- Dr. Don Covey, Maricopa Education Service Agency Superintendent, requested the Council establish a statewide longitudinal data system task force;
- Ted Kraver, eLearning System for Arizona Teachers & Students, requested that the council be innovative and not more of the same old [stuff];

- Ed Bufford, Phoenix Union Classroom Teachers Association, requested that Council reach out to local teacher leaders for their input;
- Brad Zerbe, BZG Solutions, expressed concern about rural area broadband capabilities.

8. Adjourn

Chair Barrett thanked everyone for their attendance and participation in today's meeting and advised that the next meeting of the Council would be January 26, 2011 at 3:00 p.m.

With no further business before the Council, Chair Barrett adjourned the meeting at 10:18 am.